

Message Text

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CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

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SUBJ: MILLIYET INTERVIEW WITH NATO COMMANDER GENERAL HAIG

1. MILLIYET JANUARY 15 ON CENTER PAGE CARRIED LENGTHY INTERVIEW BY THEIR BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT MAHMET ALI BIRAND WITH GENERAL HAIG. INTERVIEW COVERED SUCH TOPICS AS: TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS; TURKISH-NATO RELATIONS AND ARMS EMBARGO AND GREECE'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM NATO.

2. AMERICAN BASES IN TURKEY: HAIG RESPONDED TO QUESTION ABOUT AMERICAN BASES IN TURKEY AND POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THEIR OPERATION: "...THESE BASES ARE IMPORTANT NOTMGONLY
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FOR NATO AND THE UNITED STATES, BUT FOR TURKEY AS WELL...

THERE WOULD BE A GREAT LOSS FOR THE UNITED STATES, FOR NATO AND FOR TURKEY IF DRASTIC CHANGES ARE MADE IN RESPECT TO THE BASES."

3. ARMS EMBARGO: HAIG SAID: "ARMS SALES TO TURKEY MUST NOT BE RESTRICTED. THE EMBARGO TO WHICH I OBJECTED FROM THE VERY BEGINNING AND CONSIDERED A SELF-DESTRUCTIVE DECISION, WAS LIFTED BY HALVES. NOW, WE ARE TRYING TO ELIMINATE REMAINING OBSTACLES COMPLETELY, SRNB TI AM SURE THERE WILL BE A POSITIVE RESULT SOON."

4. NATO AND/OR AMERICAN BASES IN TURKEY: HAIG SAID THAT CHARACTERIZING BASES AS EITHER NATO OR AMERICAN WAS WRONG; THE BASES ARE PROVIDING JOINT DEFENSE FOR TURKEY AND NATO. HE CONTINUED: "THE EXISTENCE OF THESE BASES ON TURKISH SOIL IS NOT A RISK BUT A GUARANTEE FOR OYSA CANN PINUATION OF TURKISH SOVEREIGNTY."

5. ON GREEK WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO: HAIG SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE DECISION SHOULD BE UNDERESTIMATED BUT IN OPINION GREECE HAD NOT LEFT NATO AND IN CASE OF WSD SHE WOULD COME UNDER NATO COMMAND. MACOMBER

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